

RIDGWAY TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 9, 2011

CALL TO ORDER

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. in the Community Center at 201 N. Railroad Street, Ridgway, Colorado. The Council was present in its entirety with Councillors Durnan, Hunter, Johnson, Patterson, Weaver, Mayor Pro Tem Clark and Mayor Willits in attendance.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 9, 2011.
2. Register of Demands for March 2011.
3. Resolution endorsing the Proposed Whitehouse Additions to the Mount Sneffels Wilderness.
4. Water leak adjustment – 501 Chipeta Drive/Account #4130.2.

ACTION:

It was moved by Councillor Johnson and seconded by Councillor Hunter to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chris Lance, Coordinator for the Ridgway Community Garden, presented a history of the community group which was organized in 2007, their accomplishments to date, and goals for 2011. She explained funding is provided through small grants, irrigation water donated by the Town and annual membership dues. Last year 40 adults and 15 children cultivated 24 plots for a total of 2,736 square feet of vegetable and herb plantings on the lot at the corners of Charles and Laura Streets. This summer the garden will be donating fresh produce to the local food banks.

PUBLIC REQUESTS AND PRESENTATIONS

5. Request for participation with Ouray County and City of Ouray in grant application for State Noxious Weed Funds

Memo from Ouray County Weed Manager Ron Mabry regarding the Ridgway-Ouray Cooperative Weed Program for 2011.

County Weed Manager Ron Maybry addressed the Council and explained last year the Town participated with the City and County of Ouray in applying for grant funds from the state for noxious weed removal. He requested participation again this year, which would require commitment of in-kind services by staff and volunteers.

There was discussion between the Council and Mr. Mabry.

ACTION:

Councillor Hunter moved to approve participation with the City and County of Ouray in the State Noxious Weed Fund Grant application. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Clark and carried unanimously.

6. Request from Ouray County for participation in establishment of a wireless emergency notification system

Email correspondence from County Administrator Connie Hunt dated 2-15-2011 presenting background on the proposed county wide wireless emergency notification system.

Town Manager Jen Coates explained the request from Ouray County to participate in a wireless emergency notification system was continued from the prior meeting. The emergency system would allow messages to be received by way of telephone, text messaging, email and paging and will be available free of charge to agencies and the public.

Maintenance fees will be on an annual basis, 2010 is prorated for ten months to \$2,500. The cost for 2012 and 2013 are estimated to be \$3,000 a year. The Council is requesting the Town and City of Ouray participate, and contribute on an annual basis.

ACTION:

Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Clark, seconded by Councilmember Weaver and unanimously carried to approve funding for the Wireless Emergency Notification System in the amount of \$500. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Presentation of 2010 Accomplishments and 2011 Action Plan for the Ouray County Multi-Jurisdictional Housing Authority and request for board nomination

Memorandum dated March 3, 2011 from Ouray County Housing Authority Board presenting the 2010 Annual Report and 2011 Housing Plan.

Manager Coates reported the Ouray County Housing Authority Board was formed in 2007 through an intergovernmental agreement between Ouray County, the Town and City of Ouray. In 2008 a county wide housing needs assessment was completed and in 2009 an action plan. Upon completion of the plan the country experienced a global economic recession which affected the county. The five member volunteer housing board prepared a revised action plan and have pursued a course of action in line with the original objectives outlined in the plan, and also in keeping with the current economic times, she noted.

In 2010 the Housing Authority offered homebuyer education and outreach in partnership with the San Miguel County Regional Housing Authority; revisited local regulations for accessory dwelling units; collaborated with the San Miguel Regional Housing Authority on development of a regional housing assessment funded through the Department of Local Affairs; attended regional housing board meetings and symposiums. The 2011 goals include completion of the regional housing assessment; home weatherization assistance and home rehabilitation programs and outreach; continued participation in regional meetings and statewide legislation impacting affordable housing.

There was discussion by the Council and staff and it was agreed that Councillor Hunter will remain as the Town representative to the board.

LAND USE ISSUES

8. Application for revocable encroachment permit to place signage in Town right-of-way

Application for a revocable encroachment permit from Thomas Clark to place signage over right-of-way at 640 Sherman Street, Unit H.

Manager Coates noted other businesses in the building at this location have also received encroachment permits to place signage over the sidewalk, and the application is in conformance with Town requirements.

ACTION:

It was moved by Councilmember Johnson to approve the revocable sign permit for Thomas Clark, seconded by Councillor Hunter and unanimously carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

9. Request for public comments regarding housing needs and concerns and the Multi-Jurisdictional Needs Assessment

Town Clerk's Notice of Public Hearing dated 2-4-11.

The Town Manager reported Ouray and San Miguel Counties are updating the regional housing needs assessment with funding provided from community block grant funds. There is a requirement that local jurisdictions obtain public comment relative to the needs assessment, housing needs and community development as it relates to the study including needs of low and moderate income persons and other needs and concerns.

There was no one in the audience wishing to address the issue.

10. Introduction of Ordinance Amending Town Zoning Regulations on Medical Marijuana Dispensaries

Manager Coates presented a draft ordinance to clarify previously enacted zoning provisions regarding locations of medical marijuana dispensaries. The proposed ordinance amends an existing ordinance and clarifies land use regulations pertaining to mixed use facilities and zoning regulations.

ACTION:

Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Clark to introduce the Ordinance Amending Town Zoning Regulations on Medical Marijuana Dispensaries, Councillor Johnson seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

POLICY MATTERS

11. Bureau of Land Management Scoping Notice seeking public comment regarding a proposal to complete a single track trail system approximately 3 miles northeast of the Town

Town Manager Jen Coates presented a Scoping Notice dated 2-16-11 from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) requesting public comment pertaining to the proposed Ridgway

Trail Project. The proposal from the Ridgway Trail Group and Colorado Plateau Mountain Bike Association is to complete a single track trail system approximately three miles northeast of the Town and directly adjacent to Ridgway State Park. The area currently has an undeveloped multiple-use trail system with connectivity to trails along the Uncompahgre River from the Town. She noted the BLM is preparing an environmental assessment to analyze the construction, reroute and maintenance of approximately 20 miles of multiple use single track trail and construct a trailhead on the north side of Ouray County Road 10, and construct and maintain two miles of single track on the Uncompahgre Riverway.

The Council addressed questions from the audience regarding the proposed use.

There was discussion between Council and staff regarding economic benefits, traffic and safety issues. There was consensus to support the proposal and staff was directed to prepare a letter in support which notes the benefit of parking at the trailhead; connectivity to existing trails in the area and economic benefits to the region.

12. Statewide and Local Economic Development Efforts

Staff Report dated 3-4-11 from the Town Manager outlining Ouray Counties efforts to prepare an economic development plan.

Manager Coates presented an Economic Development Plan Initiative from Governor Hickenlooper's office to assist with state and county wide economic revival. The initiative requests that each county develop a plan after receiving public, business, civic group and municipal input. The goal is to have all county economic development plans placed into 14 regional plans, which will collectively be drafted into a statewide plan. She explained Ouray County is working on developing a countywide plan and will hold meetings to receive ideas on business and economic development.

Council and staff discussed ideas for the plan regarding transportation, telecommunication, small business plan education and incentives to attract non-tourism based businesses to the area.

13. Request to partner with Colorado Rural Water Association to develop a Source Water Protection Plan

Public Works Director Joanne Fagan reported last year the Town contacted the Colorado Rural Water Association regarding assistance in developing a Source Water Protection Plan. She asked if the Council was still interested in assistance from the organization which can be provided this year. The Council agreed the partnership should be pursued.

STAFF REPORTS

The Public Works Director reported completion of rebuilding the Cora Street pedestrian bridge was nearly complete.

Councilor Weaver reported on the Chamber of Commerce efforts to organize the annual balloon festival which will be held the weekend of May 6th and 7th.

CLOSED SESSION

The Town Attorney suggested the Council enter into an executive session to discuss water supply and service and use of Town property subject to State Statute Provisions 24-6-

402(4)(a)(b)(c)(d)&(e) to confer with the Town Attorney and receive legal advise, discuss property acquisition, matters of negotiations and matters subject to attorney-client communications.

The Council entered into closed session with the Town Attorney, Town Manager and Public Works Director at 8:15 p.m.

The Council reconvened to open session at 8:45 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The Mayor adjourned the meeting to a workshop meeting to be held on March 17, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Conference Room.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Kraft, MMC
Town Clerk